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UI rejects ban on CIA recruiting

By Jerry Moth
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University of Iowa officials on Tuesday rejected demands to bar CIA recruiters from conducting job interviews on campus.

Philip Hubbard, UI vice president for student services, announced his decision in a meeting with five representatives of CIA Off Campus, a coalition that has sought to prohibit campus access to CIA recruiters.

"The university would oppose any attempt to limit the freedom of individual students to choose to interview — or not to interview — with any employer who visits the campus," Hubbard said in a statement after the meeting.

Michael Price, a member of the group who attended the meeting, denounced the decision later, saying UI officials were unconcerned about the CIA's history of assassinations and attempts at overthrowing governments.

"The university is ignoring the issues that extend beyond the campus," Price said. "They're only concerned with a tiny little portion (of area) within Iowa City."

Job interviews with CIA recruiters have been scheduled for Oct. 30 and 31 in UI's placement office in the Iowa Memorial Union, Price said.

"We will have protests. That's a foregone conclusion," Price said. "We will not treat the CIA like Ford Motor Co."

Price said his group sought a ban on CIA recruiting because, he said, the agency was violating uni-

versity policies, including one that prohibits violence or the threat of violence on campus. Because the agency is an organization engaged in murder, the CIA is implicitly violent, Price said.

Last spring, protesters threatened to make a citizen's arrest on a CIA recruiter who was at UI for job interviews. The recruiter left campus a day sooner than scheduled.

Hubbard, in his statement, said UI provides access to career placement services to assist students in pursuing employment opportunities. "We believe that students are best served when provided the widest range of career options and that individuals should be allowed to decide for themselves which career path to follow," Hubbard said.

As part of that service, interviewing facilities are made available to employers who wish to offer career opportunities to students, Hubbard said.

"To assist students in making informed choices," he said, "current information about specific employers' entry requirements, advancement opportunities, compensation, working environments and other relevant information is made available to them."

As long as all employers comply with UI policies, they will be allowed on campus, Hubbard said. Hubbard did not specifically mention the CIA during the meeting, Price said.

"We've said we'll stop CIA recruiting on campus," Price added. "We'll do whatever presents itself in stopping it."